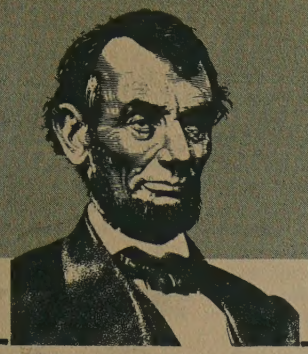

Lincoln Lore

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ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN OF 1860

While shrewd politicians were studying election charts and counting electorial votes in an effort to predict the winner in the presidential contest of 1860, an astrologer in Philadelphia worked quietly and confidently foretelling future election results by the stars.

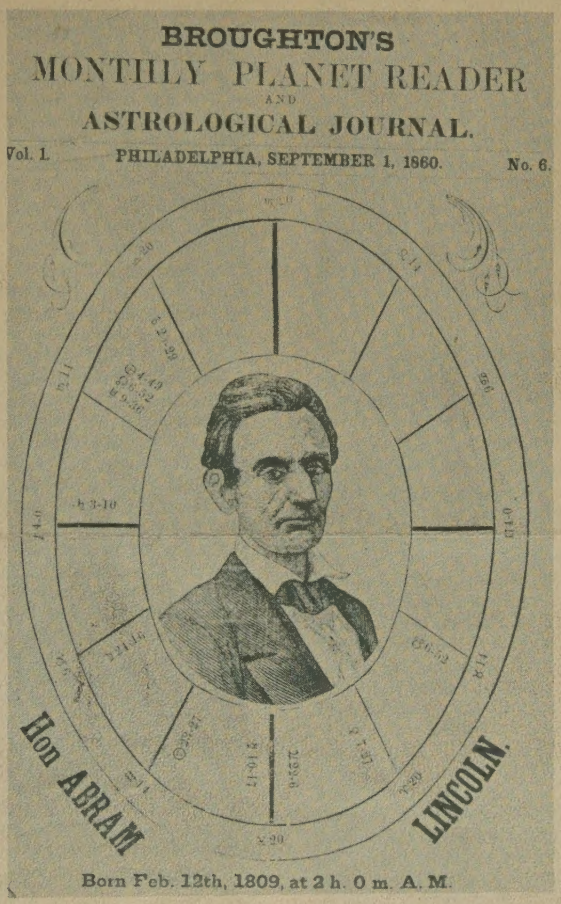
Dr. L. D. Broughton was so certain of the accuracy of his astrological readings that he published a magazine bearing the impressive title of *Broughton's Monthly Planet Reader and Astrological Journal.* His Volume one, Number one, bore the date of April 1, 1860, a most inopportune time to make accurate predictions regarding the fate of the nation, the winner of election contests, the outcome of impending battles, and the end of the irrepressible Civil War.

In the introductory issue the editor had a word "To The Reader" explaining that the magazine "is intended to be a Miscellany of Astrology, Astronomy, Phrenology, Astro-Phrenology, Physiognomy, Zodiacal Physiognomy, Human and Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, Hygiene, Botany, Medical Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Meterology, Astro-Meterology, and other branches of the Physical Sciences, and the useful branches of the Mathematics." All this could be had for 4-cents a single copy, while a year's subscription would cost 50-cents in advance. Later issues were reduced to 2-cents per copy, and subscriptions 25-cents a year in advance. Forty-three issues were published between April 1, 1860 and December 1, 1869.

Broughton did not hesitate to make predictions concerning the outcome of the 1860 presidential campaign once he got pertinent data concerning the candidates, namely; place, date, and hour of birth. He would have treated the subject in his first issue, if sufficient data could have been compiled.

Much to Broughton's disappointment, even the headquarters of the four political parties, once their candidates were nominated, did not have accurate information about birth dates and no party leader knew the hour their candidate was born. The editor was determined such information would eventually be compiled and he dispatched letters to the nominees requesting the pertinent facts.

Broughton did predict in the initial issue of his magazine that "we shall drift into war unless due caution be taken by the government. Herschel in the ascendant shows much excitement among the people concerning the presidential nomination during the present month (April, 1860)." The May 1860 number indicated that "the President (Buchanan) still keeps unpopular, and there is much worryment of mind for him on that account."



In ample time to meet his June 1, 1860 deadline, Broughton learned the date of John Bell's birth to be February 18, 1798. Then from certain scientific calculations it was decided that Bell "was born in the early part of the day, somewhere near about half-past six o'clock in the morning." This placed Bell's birth "under the planets Jupiter and Saturn, and likewise under the Sun." The astrological expert would not yet state whether or not Bell would be elected president on the Constitutional-Union ticket until he could compare the Tennessean's "nativity" with the other candidates. Bell had the "Moon in trine to Jupiter which was a very good secondary aspect" but he also had "the evil planet Saturn coming to an opposition to Jupiter" and Saturn came to a "square of Mars . . . ," all of which were very evil aspects.

Just as the June 1860 number was going to press, Broughton learned that Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate, was born on February 12, 1809, "but not having time to make the calculations (he could not) find out the hour and minute that he was born." Yet the scientific editor could foresee that in his nativity "the evil planet Saturn will come to an opposition of the Sun's place the next July, which will cause him to be rather unpopular at that time."

It was in the July 1860 issue that Broughton announced the birthdays of Stephen A. Douglas and John C. Breckenridge. The nomination of Douglas by the Democratic party was a surprise to the magazine editor because, "he (Douglas) had several very evil aspects in his nativity during the months of April and May, which made us half inclined to judge that they would

entirely throw him, or prevent him from being nominated at this time, as they did on the 23rd of April at Charleston."

The news of John C. Breckenridge's nomination on the National Democratic ticket came too late for Broughton to learn the hour and minute of his birth. Why he did not calculate the hour and minute is not explained. Nevertheless, some last minute figures indicated that Breckenridge had a favorable nativity due to "the planet Jupiter coming to a sextile to the Sun and Venus, but at the same time (he could see) the evil planet Saturn coming to a conjunction of the Moon's place, which (he predicted) will be a great draw-back for him."

Broughton thought it was "a pity that some political parties could not have placed on nomination a man with a fortunate nativity, and with fortunate aspects coming on. . . . Then they need not have any fears about him not being elected President." Saturn, it seems had a particular ominous import for all four of the candidates.

The August, 1860 number of Broughton's *Journal* featured the Douglas candidacy, noting particularly that he was born at 11:50 a.m. on April 23, 1813. The editorial opinion of the Journal was that "if there is any one elected President by the people Douglas is the man." He was said to have the "strongest Nativity of the whole four candidates." In the September 1860 number Broughton reiterated his belief that Douglas would be elected.

As to the accuracy of these predictions Broughton asserted that "if the correct hour and minute of birth of all the candidates could be had, and the science was properly understood, then in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, of any thing of that nature, could be told for certain just how it would turn out months before it took place."

Even at this late date in the campaign Broughton was unable to secure convincing evidence of Bell's correct date of birth, and he stated that Breckenridge's birth date is given as that of the 16th and 21st of January, 1821. This was a most exasperating factor to overcome when attempting to make accurate predictions. This idea was expressed this way: "The science is not to blame for those mistakes anymore than the science of arithmetic would be to blame if a person had to state two numbers for you to multiply together *and those figures were of the wrong kind.*"

It was the September 1, 1860 number (Vol. 1, No. 6) that featured Lincoln's nativity. Two full feature pages were given over to a kind of horoscope and Lincoln was said to have been "Born Feb. 12th, 1809, at 2 h. O m. A.M." The astrological analysis follows:

NATIVITY OF THE HON. ABRAM LINCOLN

"Hon. Abram Lincoln was born February 12th, 1809. After careful examination of his Nativity, we are of the opinion that he was born near two o'clock in the morning. Should we have ascertained the correct time of Abram Lincoln's birth, he was born under the planets Jupiter and Saturn, as the sign of Sagittary was ascending at the above-named time; and the planet Saturn was in the ascendant. Saturn in Sagittary describes a large person, not stout, but raw-boned; dark-brown hair, good make, and rather dark in complexion; careful, choleric, and will not bear an affront, yet willing to do good to all: a lover of his friends and merciful to enemies.

"The Moon in good aspect to Jupiter, will cause him to be of a good natured and benevolent disposition, and very sociable, and one that will be very popular, and very much esteemed among the poorer classes of people. It will likewise cause him to be of sound judgment, and of a practical turn of mind. Saturn in the ascendant will cause him to be of a plodding, thoughful, careful character, and one that will try to provide something against a rainy day.

"The planet Mercury having no aspect to the Moon, will show that his mental abilities are not of the highest order, and we may venture to predict that he will never become noted for his learning or scholarship. But at the same time Mercury being in good aspect to the planet Herschel, will cause him to be of an original turn of mind, and one that will think and act for himself, and not care about following fashions, or the rules of etiquette; and it would cause him to appear rather blunt or abrupt in his deportment and language, and to have a rather comical way of expressing himself.

"As the Moon first makes an aspect to the planet Mars, his wife is denoted by that planet; Mars in Libra describes a person rather tall, well built, but not stout made, rather light in complexion, light brown hair, and oval face; disposition cheerful, but rather fond of dress and fine outside, of a quick temper but soon over, fond of company, and would be very much respected both by male and female acquaintances and friends. But on account of the Moon making an evil aspect of Mars, they would not live in the most happy manner in a married life. And it would indicate that he would outlive his wife.

"This Nativity would not indicate a large family of children, but we could not say for certain how many; we should say that they would have some five or six altogether, but there would be much danger of burying some of them when quite young.

"Mr. Lincoln has a rather fortunate Nativity for becoming popular, and for rising in the world with care and industry. But we are sorry to say, that he has some rather unfortunate aspects coming on, and that is the planet Saturn coming in square to his own place, and in opposition to Mercury; and the planet Jupiter in opposition to the Sun's place; all of which aspects make us inclined to judge that he will be defeated this next coming Presidential election, and we think that it will be caused by some intrigue or political manoeuvers."

The October, 1860 number featured the Breckenridge nativity with the assumption that he was born at 9:30 a.m. on January 21, 1821. However, a letter to Breckenridge about his birth date brought no reply. The astrologer chided Breckenridge for his prejudice against the science of astrology, thinking it "a disgrace to answer such letters," and being "afraid of the opposite party throwing it up to them." Broughton could not foresee "the least chance of Breckenridge being elected president this next November."

John Bell's nativity was the last of the four candidates to appear in the *Astrological Journal* in November of 1860, although he had analyzed this candidate's future before in the June, 1860 issue. Bell, according to the position of the moon, the sun, Jupiter, Saturn, Herschel and Mars "would make the best President of any of the four candidates, and one that would give the most satisfaction to the bulk of the people of the United States. . . . But he will stand a poor chance of getting into the Presidential chair."

In this election month Broughton again stated that Douglas "will prove to be conqueror and that Abraham Lincoln will be defeated, . . . but not having studied that branch of the Astral Science, called 'State Astrology,' with the perserverance that we have studied the science of Nativities . . . we cannot be so confident in our predictions on public affairs, as we can be on those of a private nature."

This "hedging" as to predictions the last few days before the election was likely done to protect Broughton's reputation in the eyes of his personal clients. As a sideline Dr. and Mrs. Broughton could be consulted "in all affairs of life, such as Courtship, Marriage, Traveling, Removals, Law-suits, Obtaining Situations, Partnerships, Sickness, Absent Friends, etc." The charges were quite reasonable and Nativities could be written for $5.00. Also phrenological examinations could be arranged at No. 353 North Tenth Street.

With the election of Lincoln on November 6, 1860, there was a long and sustained silence in Broughton's *Journal* regarding the wrong prediction. Finally the May-June 1861 Number of the *Planet Reader* carried the following statement:

REMARKS ON THE LATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

"I predicted that Douglas would be elected, and that Lincoln would be defeated. I made that prediction from seeing, that Lincoln had so many evil aspects, in his Nativity, at the time the election came off: and the aspects in Douglas' Nativity being more fortunate than those in Lincoln's. Indeed I went entirely by the Nativities of the different candidates, believing that that was the safest way, as I had not had any practice in Mundane or State Astrology, previous to beginning publishing the Plant Reader. . . . When I made the pre-

diction on the Presidential election, (a prediction that required experience in both the Science of Nativities and Mundane Astrology,) I made a mistake, in stating that Douglas would be elected, and that Lincoln would be defeated. But in reality, I did not make a mistake; except, in not examining the subject far enough. I saw that the aspects, in Lincoln's Nativity, were uncommon evil; therefore I came to the conclusion that he would be defeated. But had I noticed the effects, on the affairs of this country, of the planets Herschel in passing through the Sign Gemini, (which Sign rules the U. S.,) in its former revolutions round the heavens. I should have known, that the unfortunate aspects in Lincoln's Nativity indicated, what would take place after the election, and not before it. And perhaps, there is not any person now, (whether they believe in Astrology or not) but what will admit, that it would have been much better for the United States, if Douglas could have been elected.

"I have been more particular, in explaining how I made the mistake, in the prediction on the Presidential election; on account of a number of people, laughing at those persons who place any confidence, in predictions made by the rules of Astrology; and the only argument that those skeptics can bring against that science is that Broughton Predicted that Douglas would be Elected. But whatever harm the above prediction may have done to Astrology, at least it has done me a great deal of good; as it caused me to investigate Astrology more than I had ever done before; to try to find out whether it was the Science that was at fault, or myself, in not understanding it properly."

In his attempts to prove that Astrology is a reliable science, Broughton reviewed some of his predictions made in earlier issues of his magazine:

"The second prediction, that I shall notice, having a reference to the present difficulties was published in the December No. 1860; page 66, and is as follows: 'Mr. Lincoln has a very Evil Revolutionary Figure for this year, he has the evil planet Saturn near the cusp of the tenth house, in opposition to the Sun; and Herschel in the ascendant in opposition to Mars in the seventh house. And he had very unfortunate aspects in his Nativity at the time he was elected, he had Mars over the Sun's place in opposition to Jupiter, besides several other very evil aspects, which makes us judge that it will be one of the worst things that could have happened to the United States, Abram Lincoln being elected President. The evil will not be felt in its force right away. We look for something particular happening ABOUT NEXT APRIL or MAY, 1861."

Continuing his discourse in the July 1861 number with reference to his December 1860 predictions, Broughton wrote, "The President of the U. S. and those in power are at their wit's ends, and there is a general outcry against them. Some of the Southern States are determined to break the Bonds of the Union, and the Time has not yet arrived for that Great Calamity to this Glorious Republic! But we are afraid that April and May 1861, will TELL A TALE that will not soon be Forgotten by the People of the United States. The Heavenly Bodies fore-shadows something looming in the distance, that is hard to define or unravel; but let us hope and trust that a kind Providence will avert any heavy calamity that may be hanging over our heads, or at least lessen the evil that it may be bearable."

Broughton proved to be a very poor prophet and as yet no political party requires their prospective candidates to submit the hour and the date of their birth for the preparation of Astrological Nativities in order to be cleared for "fortunate aspects" coming on.

INDIANA

"The Opposition press of this State seems to have wheeled into support of Lincoln and Hamlin with great unanimity. The *Vincennes Gazette*, the *New Albany Gazette*, the *Fort Wayne Times*, and the *Evansville Journal*, all Fillmore papers in 1856, have come out heartily for Lincoln and Hamlin. The *Terre Haute Express*, which was a Fillmore paper for a short time in 1856, is now enthusiastically out in support of the ticket. The *Greencastle Banner*, the *Seymour Times* and the *Rising Sun Visitor*, all Fillmore papers in 1856, will advocate Lincoln. The *Jeffersonville Republican* is going for Lincoln and Hamlin."

Lincoln and Liberty, Tract
No. 2. New York, June 26, 1860. M. 62

PHILATELIC LINCOLNIANA

$1. LINCOLN MEMORIAL—ISSUE OF 1922-26

Scott 571

On Lincoln's birthday in 1923 a new stamp was added to a regular series of twenty-one denominations, honoring the Sixteenth President. This series was issued by the Post Office Department to replace the regular issue of stamps, known as the "Series of 1912."

The Issue of 1922-26 was published with the idea of presenting to the public, artistic portraits and views which would promote a historical and educational interest in stamps. The selection of the Lincoln Memorial building for the $1. denomination was most appropriate at this time as the shrine was dedicated on May 30, 1922.

Three different border designs were used for the twenty-one denominations, which are the same size, 75/100 by 87/100 inch, as the preceding series. The border design for the first thirteen denominations (1-cent to 14-cent) is identical, with a different border design for the 15-cent denomination. A third border design was drawn for the remaining seven denominations, namely 20-cent, 25-cent, 30-cent, 50-cent, $1. (Lincoln Memorial), $2., and $5.

A technical description of the stamp is as follows: "One-dollar Lincoln Memorial, from photograph and drawing, with the words 'Lincoln Memorial' on the ribbon below the central design. The surrounding design is the same as the 20-cent stamp except that the numeral '1' appears in the circles in both lower corners, and with the word 'Dollar' instead of 'Cents' at the bottom of the stamp. The stamp (unwmkd., perf. 11) is printed in brown ink. The $1. stamp was first placed on sale at Washington, D. C., and Springfield, Ill., on February 12, 1923."

This one-dollar denomination was surcharged in black "Canal Zone." Type 1 letters "A" with flat tops (1924-25) unwmkd., perf. 11 is catalogued as Scott No. 80. Type II surcharged "Canal Zone" unwmkd., perf. 11, with letters "A" with sharp pointed tops (1925-26) is catalogued as Scott No. 95.

Post Office Department: Postage Stamps of the United States. 1955. Scott: Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. 1948.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
(June 15?) 1858

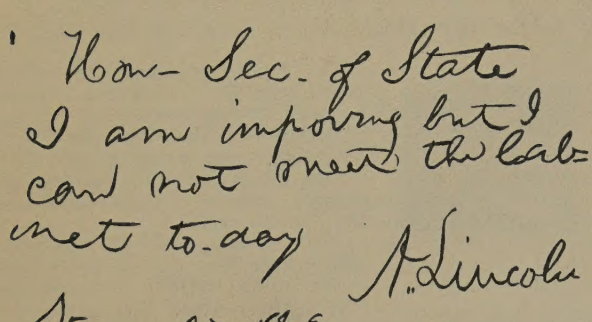
Born, February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky.
Education defective.
Profession, a lawyer.
Have been a captain of volunteers in Black Hawk War.
Postmaster at a very small office.
Four times a member of the Illinois legislature, and was a member of the lower house of Congress.

Lincoln was eligible for inclusion in Charles Lanman's "Dictionary of the United States Congress," and in 1858 the compiler sent the ex-congressman a request for his autobiography. Lanman reconstructed Lincoln's outline in the form of a single sentence, which appeared on page 298 of his Dictionary, published at Philadelphia in 1859 by J. P. Lippincott & Co.

Lincoln purchased a copy in 1859. On June 9, 1860 he wrote Lanman: "Yours of the 4th received, and I shall gratefully accept the book (*Dictionary of Congress*) when it arrives, as it has not yet done. I already have a copy, which I purchased near a year ago, and which I have found both interesting and valuable."

It appears that Lincoln owned a third volume of the Lanman work, published in 1864, which was also presented to Lincoln by the compiler, and is now owned by William H. Townsend of Lexington, Kentucky.

"THE PRESIDENT IS SICK IN BED— Bilious" John Hay


Hon- Sec. of State
I am improving but I
can not meet the Cab-
inet to-day A. Lincoln
Nov 27-1863

Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy, was too busy with his Annual Report to accompany Lincoln to Gettysburg or even to record daily events in his diary for the month of November 1863.

Taking up his diary in December 1863, he reviewed some of the important events that had occurred during the preceding month and among other things he wrote: "I was invited and strongly urged by the president to attend the ceremonials at Gettysburg, but was compelled to decline, for I could not spare the time. The president returned ill and in a few days it was ascertained he had the varioloid. We were in cabinet-meeting when he informed us that the physicians had the preceding evening ascertained and pronounced the nature of his complaint. It was in a light form, but yet held on longer than was expected. He would have avoided an interview, but wished to submit and have our views of the (annual) message."

Varioloid is diagnosed as a mild form of smallpox which attacks persons who are partially immune. Likely its close relation to the dread disease prompted John Hay to write John Nicolay on November 25, 1863; "Don't, in a sudden spasm of good-nature, send any more people with letters to me requesting favors from S..... (Stanton). I would rather make the tour of a smallpox ward." However, it was on November 26th that John Hay, incorrectly diagnosed Lincoln's condition as "Bilious."

The White House was not quarantined during Lincoln's illness. A few newspapers commented on Lincoln's sickness and the London *Spectator* dared to write of a "fatal termination," while providing its readers with a brief sketch of the life of Vice President Hannibal Hamlin. At least the English editor had the decency to state, "Let us hope, however, that there will be no occasion for the curious medley of associations suggested by the substitution of a Hannibal . . ., for an Abraham."

Lincoln became ill during the evening of November 19, 1863, the day of his delivery of the Gettysburg Address. During the train trip back to Washington, D. C., Lincoln lay in a relaxed position in the drawing room with a wet towel across his forehead. He incorrectly diagnosed his condition as fatigue.

It appears that Lincoln suffered more acutely from the disease on November 26th and 27th, because The National Republican, dated November 28, 1863 reported that he was better. "Yesterday, and the day before" the two critical days when he suffered from severe pains in the head which was accompanied with fever, Lincoln was not permitted "to hold any interviews."

Apparently, he did little or no letter writing because the recorded works indicate nothing is extant for November 26th and 27th. The one exception (Nov. 27) is a newly discovered short note to the Secretary of State. However, during his illness and convalescence of approximately eighteen days, he wrote about thirty-five letters and telegrams and prepared his Annual Message To Congress which bears the date December 8, 1863.

In a letter to George Opdyke and Others, dated December 2, 1863 he declined an invitation to be present at the Cooper Institute "to promote the raising of volunteers" and "to celebrate our western victories" because of the early meeting of Congress and "a temporary illness."

During this seige of varioloid, Lincoln was attended by Dr. Robert King Stone. Undoubtedly the smallpox scare provided Lincoln some relief from the importunities of office seeker and undesirable visitors. He humoriously referred to the contagious nature of his disease as "something I can give to everybody."

The letters Lincoln wrote during the period of his illness dealt with Gettysburg Address amenities, political problems, military trials and sentences, appointments, a lady in distress, Indian affairs, a starving Southern family, desertion, military tactics, the construction of loyal state governments, acknowledgments and family telegrams.

Perhaps the hitherto unpublished pencilled note addressed to the "Hon.-Sec. of State," bearing the date of November 27, 1863, written in an unsteady hand, best illustrates the suffering Lincoln endured if not the critical nature of his illness: "I am improving but I can not meet the cabinet today. A. Lincoln, Nov. 27, 1863."

The urgency of Lincoln's recovery has been best expressed by one of his biographers: "Lincoln had to be well . . ., for on December eight Congress convened."

"DEAR MR. LINCOLN" . . . .

Letters Addressed to Lincoln In the Foundation Collection

In the March, April and June issues of *Lincoln Lore* a compilation of 184 original letters addressed to Abraham Lincoln was published. Since that compilation was made two additional letters of interesting significance have been acquired by the Foundation. One was addressed to Lincoln by a former president, while the other was addressed to him by a future president.

The Fillmore letter follows:

Buffalo, March 8, 1861

His Excellency
Abraham Lincoln

Sir,

The bearer, E. C. Sprague, Esq. visits Washington on business and has requested me to give him a letter of introduction to your excellency, which I do with great pleasure, as I have known Mr. Sprague from his childhood, and have a very high regard for him as a gentleman of intelligence and high moral character.

He studied law in my office and is now a partner of my son, and occupies a high rank in his profession, and I may add (without being suspected of partizanship) that he is a devoted Republican.

I am Respectfully and
Truly Yours
Millard Fillmore

The Grant letter follows:

Headquarters, Depts. of the Ten.
Millikins Bend, La., April 12th/63

A. Lincoln
President of the United States

Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter and also one from General Sherman,* to Thos. D. Knox, correspondent of the New York Herald in reply to his application to be permitted to remain in this Dept.

I send these knowing the propensity of persons to misrepresent grounds taken in matters when they are personally interested and fearing that in this case, it might be represented that your wishes had not met with the respect due them.

As stated in my letter the wish of the president will always have the favor and respect of an order.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. svt.
U. S. Grant
Maj. Gen. Vols.

*Copies of the original correspondence sent to Thos. D. Knox of the *New York Herald* accompany this original letter.